

**NEPA Forecast Report
April 26, 2017**

APPROACHING DEADLINES (NEXT 2 WEEKS)

Nothing to Report

Unrelated/Unresponsive

Unrelated/Unresponsive

R9/Forest Service (USFS)/Record of Decision/ Rosemont Mine/

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Adverse Rating:

- **Background:** The EIS evaluates a proposed new, 4,800 acre open-pit copper and molybdenum mine to be constructed mostly on USFS National Forest Land southwest of Tucson.
- **EPA Involvement:** EPA rated the Draft EIS as "EU-3" (Environmentally Unsatisfactory – Inadequate Information) due to concerns regarding degradation of aquatic habitat, significant air quality impacts, and impacts to tribal and cultural resources, biological resources, and human health. Upon review of the Final EIS, EPA determined that the issues underlying its "EU" rating had not been resolved, and notified USFS and the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) that the Project remains a candidate for referral. Then, pursuant to an EPA request, USFS extended the referral deadline indefinitely to allow time for an interagency process to seek resolution of the outstanding issues, and for the Corps Section 404 permit decision to inform any referral decision. Since late 2013, CEQ has been facilitating interagency discussions toward this end.
- **Status:** A stakeholders meeting requested by the Corps will be held on 4/18/17 in Phoenix to discuss mitigation. The Corps Division is in the process of reviewing the District determination of December 2016, and its intent to not authorize a 404 permit for the current proposal. The key factors are based on determinations that the proposed Rosemont Mine will cause or contribute to violations of state water quality standards, significant degradation of waters of the US. In addition, the USFS notified EPA by phone on April 6th that they will proceed to issue their record of decision (ROD) in 30 days, thereby setting a new Unrelated/Unresponsive deadline for EPA. CEQ held a meeting with US Department of Agriculture and Forest Service representatives where CEQ raised objections regarding the Forest Service's notification that they will proceed to issue their ROD in 30 days. CEQ has scheduled a meeting on Friday, April 28th to discuss how all stakeholders will move forward.

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